

this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7494 of November 9, 2001

National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2001

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Our National Guard and Reserve forces play a vital role in helping America respond when our interests are threatened around the world. They are an indispensable part of our Nation's efforts to promote democracy, peace, and freedom, and, in the wake of the September 11 attacks, National Guard and Reserve units are deploying to help fight and win the war against terrorism.

Americans understand and appreciate the importance of our National Guard and Reserve forces, but many do not know the contributions their employers make in supporting these civilian soldiers. Employers share their greatest resource, their people; and, in so doing, they subordinate their own interests for the good of our country. Employers' willingness to sacrifice and bear the inevitable financial hardships and organizational disruptions that result are important contributions to our Nation's war against terrorism. By placing America's well-being above their own, they help our National Guard and Reserve units provide mission-ready forces to help preserve our freedoms and protect our national interests.

Because this generosity enables Guard and Reserve troops to play an essential role in responding to the terrorist attacks, it is appropriate to honor the sacrifice American businesses are making in releasing their employees for military service. We express our heartfelt appreciation to these patriots for the burden they bear as their workers depart to serve our Nation and help keep America strong, secure, and free.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 11, 2001, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7495 of November 9, 2001

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month, 2001

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Approximately 16 million American adults suffer from a devastating disease for which there is no cure. The disease is called Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and it is a growing problem in this country and throughout the world. COPD claims more than 100,000 lives per year, drains the American economy of an estimated \$30.4 billion each year, and is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States today, exceeded only by heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

COPD is a medical term for a group of respiratory conditions that includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD results in gradual, irreversible damage to the lungs. Since the symptoms progress gradually, COPD patients may not even realize in the early stages that they have the disease. Over the years, as the lung damage continues, breathing becomes increasingly difficult.

Although some patients have an inherited version of the disease, smoking is the most common cause of COPD. Exposure to toxic substances in the environment such as industrial pollutants, aerosol sprays, non-tobacco smoke, and internal combustion engine exhaust may also aggravate or contribute to COPD. While our ultimate goal is to prevent this often-fatal disease, we now need better treatments. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month offers us the opportunity to increase our knowledge of this disease and to consider what we can do to reduce its occurrence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness of COPD and its impact on communities and to improve the quality of life of those who suffer from the disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH